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**Derek B. Santos  
Counsel  
Middle East District**

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Derek B. Santos is Counsel and Chief Legal Officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Middle East District (MED), located in Winchester, Va.

The Middle East District is responsible for providing engineering, construction, and related services in the Middle East, Central Asia, and other areas as required. Its work includes designing and constructing facilities for use by U.S. forces, performing engineering activities for other U.S. government and foreign agencies, and providing operations and maintenance services for various customers. In addition, the District provides project management, engineering, contracting and support services to USACE districts in Iraq and Afghanistan. MED was renamed from the Transatlantic Programs Center (TAC) on Oct. 1, 2009, following the activation of the Transatlantic Division.

As the District's Counsel, Mr. Santos is responsible for delivering legal services in support of MED, including its field offices in the Middle East, Central Asia, and other areas, as well as to the Corps of Engineers districts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Legal services included are in the areas of federal procurement and fiscal law, international and interagency services, claims and litigation, information and personnel law, and government ethics. He also provides advice to the command group and all MED staff on the full range of legal issues associated with MED activities. He has served as District Counsel since 2008.

Prior to his service with MED, Mr. Santos served as Assistant Division Counsel in the Corps of Engineers South Atlantic Division, in Atlanta. He has also served as Assistant Division Counsel in the Gulf Region Division in Baghdad and as District Counsel in the Afghanistan Engineer District in Kabul. Mr. Santos joined the Corps Legal Services Community directly from law school, via the Chief Counsel's Honors Program, in 2004.

Mr. Santos received his attorney license from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, with a citation for Exemplary Commitment to Public Service. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Williams College in Political Science, studying for one year on exchange with the Government Department at Dartmouth College.

Among Mr. Santos' awards and recognition are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Legal Services E. Manning Seltzer Award for Excellence, two Army Superior Civilian Service Medals, a Commander's Medal, and a NATO non-Article 5 Medal. Mr. Santos is also a member of the National Eagle Scout Association.

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